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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-04* *January 28th, 2011*

- **Consumer prices increase 0.2 percentage points in December**
- **BC's inflation rate was 1.3% in 2010**
- **Women by far outnumber men in BC's senior care homes**

Prices

- **The province's year-over-year inflation rate remained relatively stable at 2.4% in December, up 0.2 percentage points from November.** British Columbians paid more for shelter (+2.6%) as consumers faced rising prices for homeowner insurance (+9.9%) and utilities (+9.7%). Energy prices were 10.1% higher in December, with much of that increase due to rising prices at the pump (+10.6%). Excluding energy, BC's inflation rate was at 1.7%.

  Consumers paid more for food (+3.8%) as grocery bills (+1.8%) became moderately more expensive than in the same month of 2009 and restaurant meals cost notably more (+7.5%). Transportation prices increased 3.6% as both private (+3.6%) and public (+3.4%) transportation options became more costly. The cost of household operations rose 2.9% while prices for household furniture & textiles (-1.3%) and appliances (-1.5%) continued to fall, leaving the overall increase in costs of running a household (+1.8%) below that of the overall inflation rate. Clothing & footwear prices (-4.4%) were also down while health & personal care costs climbed (+1.8%) for the 29th consecutive month.

  In Vancouver, inflation dipped slightly to 2.5% while in Victoria, consumers faced a more moderate increase in prices (+2.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, a rise in gasoline prices (+13.0%) contributed to the 2.4% increase in the all-items CPI between December 2009 and December 2010.** Excluding energy, the Canadian CPI rose only 1.7% over the past year. Canadians also faced higher costs for shelter (+2.7%), following a similar increase in November (+2.6%). The rise in shelter costs was primarily a result of increases in homeowners' replacement costs and utility expenses. On a provincial basis, inflation accelerated in every region, with the most marked upturn seen in Ontario (+3.3%), where gasoline prices surged 16.0%. Meanwhile, the slowest price increase occurred in Alberta, where prices were up 0.8%. Manitoba (+1.2%) was the only province where the main factor behind the increase in consumer prices was *not* gasoline.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

2010 in Review

- **Looking back, British Columbia's *annual* inflation rate was 1.3% in 2010, significantly lower than the national rate, which was 1.8%.** Lower-than-average increases in the cost of shelter (+0.7%, compared to a national average of +1.4%) and transportation (+3.1%, compared to +4.3% nationally) helped offset higher-than-average increases in the cost of food (+1.6%, compared to 1.4% nationally) and a few other goods and services.

  Nationally, the cost of renting increased an average of 1.2% last year while rising 1.5% here in BC. Meanwhile, the cost of owned accommodation was down 0.9% in the province while nationally, rates climbed slightly (+0.7%). Canadian homeowners faced higher prices for utilities, as electric power rates (+4.8%) rose at the same time as prices for water (+5.9%) and fuel oil (+16.1%) were climbing. In BC, consumers faced even higher increases in the cost of oil (+17.7%), while electricity (+10.6%) prices rose at more than double the national rate. British Columbians

Report **An updated room revenue methodology**

Did you know...

While less than half (47%) of British Columbians believe health claims made on food labels, even fewer (45%) are willing to pay more for products that make health claims.

Source: Ipsos Canada

grappled with much the same increase in the cost of gasoline (+9.0%) as Canadian consumers as a whole (+9.1%).

Overall, energy costs in BC (+8.3%) rose more than the national average (+6.7%), while prices for other goods and services increased at a slower rate (+0.8%, compared to +1.3% nationally).

Manitoba (+0.8%) and Alberta (+1.0%) reported the lowest inflation rates among the provinces, while Ontario (+2.5%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (+2.4%) posted price increases well above the national average.

Vancouver's inflation rate was 1.8%, while prices in Victoria rose 1.1% during 2010.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- **The nation's adult incarceration rate declined for the first time in five years in 2009/2010, dropping nearly two percent to 138 per 100,000 population.** On an average day, 37,058 individuals were held in either sentenced custody or remand. The number of adults in federal prisons (those serving sentences greater than two years) held relatively stable, at approximately 13,200 in 2009/2010. This accounted for close to four in ten adults in custody in Canada, while the remainder were held in provincial/territorial prisons.

  In BC, the adult rate of incarceration (including only those held in provincial jails) was among the lowest (76 per 100,000) in the country in 2009/2010. This compares to the Canadian average of 89 adults incarcerated in provincial/territorial prisons. Nova Scotia (57) boasted by far the lowest rate of provincial incarceration, while Manitoba had the highest (199), surpassing Saskatchewan (191) for the first time in at least a decade. BC's adult incarceration rate has fluctuated between approximately 60 and 80 since 2000/2001. 2009/2010 marked the first decline since 2003/04, when the rate hit a decade-low of 63 per 100,000.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Care Facilities

- **Women outnumbered men by a ratio of more than two to one in BC's residential care facilities for seniors in 2008/2009.** Data for the province's care facilities show that nearly 17,500 women lived in homes for the aged, compared to just over 7,700 men. However, the opposite was true for facilities for persons with mental disorders, where men outnumber women significantly (nearly 3,200 compared to approximately 2,000, respectively).

  Nationally, there were 4,845 residential care facilities operating in 2008/09, serving 250,387 residents. Residential care facilities employees worked 465.7million hours, which corresponds to 238,820 full-time equivalents.

  Data Source: SC, Cat. # 83-237-XIE

Family Violence

- **Following nearly three decades of decline, the rate of spousal homicides in Canada remained stable in 2009 for the third consecutive year.** In 2009, 64 spousal homicides (including common-law spouses, legally married spouses and spouse who have been divorced or separated) were reported to police, representing an overall rate of 3.5 per million spouses. Since 1985, the rate for female victims dropped 59% (from 13.0 per million married women to 5.3), while the rate for male victims dropped 55% over the same period (from 3.8 to 1.7). Despite the overall decline in spousal homicide rates, women continue to be far more likely than men to be killed by their spouse. Over the same period, the rate of spousal homicide against females has remained three to five times higher than against males.

  Between 2000 and 2009, spousal homicides accounted for 16% of all solved homicides and nearly half (47%) of all family-related homicides. *Data Source: SC, Cat. # 85-224-XIE*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Contact: Lillian Hallin
(250) 387-0366
Author: Werner Grundlingh
originally published in
Tourism Sector Monitor, issue 2010-12

Infoline Report

An updated room revenue methodology

Introduction

Provincial room revenue estimates produced by BC Stats rely on hotel room tax (HRT) data submitted by accommodation establishments across the entire province. However, with the harmonization of provincial tax into a federal administered tax (HST) on June 30, 2010, HRT was repealed.

This article highlights some of the considerations involved in updating the methodology behind estimating provincial room revenue using alternative sources to the former HRT.

Did you know?

By the year 2000, roughly 60% of room revenues in BC where subject to 2% AHRT. This number has grown to roughly 80% in 2010 as more communities have joined in order to support and fund their local tourism initiatives.

Alternative sources utilized

While HRT is not collected anymore, some municipalities have applied to collect additional hotel room tax (AHRT). This tax, up to 2% of eligible accommodation sales, used to be charged in addition to fixed 8% HRT and is meant to fund tourism-related activities (including marketing, programs and projects). Some communities have been collecting AHRT for more than 20 years[1], while others started this collection only recently[2]. This valuable alternative provides an accurate source for the continuation of room revenue estimates within the province.

The question now remains: "What about communities that do not collect AHRT?" Room revenue estimates for vendors within these areas are now being modelled using a combination of sources, including historical HRT and current HST collections.

Updated methodology

For the roughly 80% in room revenue that is driven by the collection of AHRT, estimates are derived by dividing the collectable tax by the explicit AHRT rate (2% in all communities).

The remaining 20% of provincial room revenues is estimated on a vendor-by-vendor basis using the most reliable method amongst the following:

- The seasonal growth pattern of a vendor's HST revenue is used to grow forward historical HRT revenue;
- The seasonal growth pattern of the HST revenue from operators categorized as NAICS 721[3] within the regional district is used to grow forward historical HRT revenue; or

[1] The Resort Municipality of Whistler has collected 2% AHRT since May 1st, 1988.

[2] As of December 2010, the Nelson/Kootenay Lake Area and City of Vernon where the most recent addition to communities collecting 2% AHRT in BC, and started collecting on March 1st, 2010.

[3] The North American Industry Classification System identifies the subsector 721 as follows: Comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing short-term lodging for travellers, vacationers and others.

- The seasonal growth pattern of the historical HRT is duplicated in a number of ways to produce current room revenue estimates.

However, since economic conditions today may vary (even considerably) from historical observations, some imputations are still required in order to estimate room revenue growth accurately. These imputations are also required since HST revenue has a much larger collection base than that of the historic HRT, which was only collected on the sale of eligible accommodation.

Looking ahead

All efforts have been employed to maintain the level accuracy of provincial room revenue estimates after June 30th, 2010.

On the upside, the use of AHRT data has focussed the origin of accommodation sales at the municipal level—the lowest reporting structure in the TSM. Consequently, room revenue estimates for these communities are considered to be very accurate. Additionally, this source accounts for a very large share of the provincial room revenue.

On the downside, room revenue figures modelled based on current HST or historical HRT growth patterns may be less accurate, until more precise alternatives are investigated. As a consequence of this, room revenues in these regions may be subject to larger than usual revisions.

The current methodology may undergo changes within the foreseeable future in order to address some of the shortfalls in non-AHRT collecting communities across BC.

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Register early as space is limited

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Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,551.9	1.5
Canada	34,238.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2010	3,012	1.5
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2010	2,407	-1.6
Retail Sales - Nov 2010	4,950	1.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.4	1.4
Vancouver	2.5	1.7
Victoria	2.0	1.0
Canada	2.4	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted) REVISED Jan 28	Dec 2010	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-12.8	
Labour Force - BC	2,445.6	0.0
Employed - BC	2,260.7	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	184.9	7.4
		Nov 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.6	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 26/2011	Jan 27/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.35	3.60
- 5 year	5.19	5.49
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 26/2011	Jan 27/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9953	1.0657
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0047	0.9392
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2010	one year ago
BC	817.41	0.4
Canada	829.72	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

2010 estimates of population for municipalities, regional districts and development regions are now available. Estimates for 2006 to 2009 have also been revised.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/mun/CurrentPopulationEstimates.pdf

Science Related Occupations

How many people work in science-related occupations? Which industries employ them? What's the labour market outlook for workers in these occupations? A recently-released report on science-related occupations explores these issues. On WorkBC site; authored by BC Stats.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_Science_Related_Occupations.pdf

Trade Occupations Outlook to 2019

The BC Trade Occupations Outlook report provides an outlook for trade occupations for the province as a whole, as well as for its seven development regions for the period 2009-2019. The analysis is based on a representative list of 15 trade occupations covering 82 separate trades and over 85 percent of active B.C. apprentices as of June 30, 2010. Selected occupations are concentrated in two NOC skill types: Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations (NOC7), and Sales and Service Occupations (NOC6). The occupational forecast included in this report comes from the B.C. Labour Market Outlook: 2009-2019 report, which was produced from B.C.'s new Labour Market Scenario Model.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_tradesoccupationoutlook_2009-2019.pdf

Released this week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, December 2010
- Business Indicators, January 2011

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, January 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, January 2011
- Tourism Sector Monitor, January 2011

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca